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Viewing cable 03COLOMBO688, Tigers announce they are suspending peace talks; GSL, most observers see move as tactical

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#03COLOMBO688**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
03COLOMBO688	2003-04-22 09:53	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Colombo

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article3954292.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

"C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 08 COLOMBO 000688 SIPDIS DEPARTMENT FOR D, SA, SA/INS, SA/PD, S/CT NSC FOR E. MILLARD LONDON FOR POL/RIE DECL: 04-22-13
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KPAQ](#) [EAID](#) [CE](#) [NO](#) [JA](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: Tigers announce they are suspending peace talks; GSL, most observers see move as tactical

Refs: Colombo 685, and previous (Notal) (U) Classified by Ambassador E. Ashley Wills.

Reasons: 1.5 (b, d).

[¶1. \(C\) SUMMARY:](#) In a press release dated April 21, the Tamil Tigers suspended their participation in the peace talks and said they will not at [¶10. END SUMMARY.](#)

----- Tiger Statement -----

[¶2. \(U\) In a long press release dated April 21, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam \(LTTE\) suspended its participation in peace talks with the](#)

[¶3. \(U\) The statement begins by tipping its hat to the peace process, noting that the prior rounds of talks and other interactions among the LT](#)

[¶4. \(U\) Briefly reciting these complaints, the statement wraps up by saying: "Under these circumstances, the LTTE leadership has decided to su](#)

----- GSL Reaction -----

[¶5. \(C\) The government has not yet issued an official public reaction to the LTTE statement. \(Note: Late April 22, Prime Minister Wickremesingh](#)

[¶6. \(C\) In making the statement, Moragoda said the LTTE seemed to be using "shock therapy" because it felt a bit cornered, as many of the eas](#)

[¶7. \(U\) \(\(Note: Shortly after her return from an official visit to Bangladesh, President Kumaratunga issued a statement critical of the LTTE's](#)

----- Other Reaction -----

[¶8. \(C\) Most observers we have spoken to agree with Moragoda that the Tigers' statement was tactical in nature and not an indication that the c](#)

-----COMMENT-----

[¶9. \(C\) While the Tigers are always hard to read, we tend to agree that that their statement seems basically tactical in nature and that they s](#)

END COMMENT.

----- Draft Press Statement -----

[¶10. \(C\) Attached below is a draft press statement for Washington's immediate review. We would like Washington's clearance by April 23 morning](#)
[¶21. We do not find them convincing. A well-intentioned party that truly wants a peaceful, political settlement to Sri Lanka's conflict could c](#)
End text.

----- Text of LTTE Statement -----

[¶11. \(U\) The following is the text of the LTTE statement made by LTTE spokesman Anton Balasingham and issued late April 21: Begin text. Dear Pr](#)

[¶12. \(U\) Minimize considered.](#)

WILLS